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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10611 231004Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 JUSE-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-11
OIC-02 /185 W
----------027429 231214Z /43
R 230940Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7600
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS MANILA 10611

USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, RP, US
SUBJECT: DIFFICULTIES WITH PHILIPPINE CONSULAR INVOICES

REF: MANILA 3237 AND SUBSEQUENT

1. SUMMARY. STILL ANOTHER U.S. EXPORTER HAS CALLED, THIS TIME IN PERSON, ON THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING PROMPT "LEGALIZATION" OF CONSULAR INVOICES BY PHILCONSULS IN THE UNITED STATES. PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED IN A MEETING WITH MFA OFFICIALS WHO PROMISED TO RE-ISSUE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS, BUT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH DISCUSS MATTER WITH PHILEMBASSY WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY. ..

2. PETER POHL, PRESIDENT OF PETER POHL INTERNATIONAL, INC., WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS REPRESENTING LOUIS RICH, INC., THE LARGEST TURKEY PROCESSOR IN THE WORLD, AND WHO EXPORTS TO 25 COUNTRIES, CALLED JUNE 22 ON AGRICULTURAL
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ATTACHE AND EMBASSY OFFICERS TO DISCUSS HIS PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING "LEGALIZATION" OF CONSULAR INVOICES FROM PHILCONSULS IN THE UNITED STATES. HIS LATEST CASE INVOLVED THE PHILCONSULATE IN NEW YORK WHICH EARLIER HAD LEGALIZED A CONSULAR INVOICE BUT SUBSEQUENTLY KEPT THE NEXT ONE FOR TWO WEEKS AND THEN RETURNED IT WITH THE REQUEST THAT HE APPLY TO PHILCONSUL IN SAN FRANCISCO. PETER POHL IS LO-

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CATED IN WEST LIBERTY, IOWA.

3. POHL GOT HIS DOCUMENTS BACK ANOTHER TWO WEEKS LATER FROM SAN FRANCISCO, BUT THE SHIPMENT HAD ALREADY ARRIVED IN MANILA, HAD BEEN IMPOUNDED BY GOP CUSTOMS, AND WAS SUBJECT TO PENALTIES AND WAREHOUSING FEES. HE HAS NOT RECEIVED PAYMENT TO DATE AND EXPECTS TO LOSE MONEY ON THAT SHIPMENT.

4. POHL BELIEVED THAT HE SHOULD PRESENT HIS PROBLEM TO GOP OFFICIALS, AND WE ARRANGED A MEETING WITH MFA OFFICIALS -- DEPUTY DG (I.E., DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY) DOLLIE SALAS AND AMERICAN DESK OFFICER GEORGE ARIZABAL IN THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. POHL STRESSED THAT HE IS AN EXPERIENCED EXPORTER, IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO FOLLOW GOP REGULATIONS AND TO PAY FORTY DOLLAR FEE FOR LEGALIZATION, BUT EXPECTS EXPEDITIOUS ISSUE OF THE CONSULAR INVOICE IN RETURN. HE RECOUNTED HIS EXPERIENCES.

5. MFA OFFICIALS WERE POLITE AND LISTENED WITH CARE, AND STATED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR COMPLAINTS IN THE PAST (SEE REFTELS). THEY DESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES OF PHILCONSULS WHICH LATTER HAD RECOUNTED TO THEM. OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT ONLY PHILIPPINES AND THREE OR FOUR SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES STILL REQUIRE CONSULAR INVOICES. SALAS PROMISED TO REISSUE CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS CALLING
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FOR EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF CONSULAR INVOICES, BUT AT SAME TIME SHE ASKED THAT POHL DOCUMENT HIS EXPERIENCES, WHICH POHL AGREED TO DO.

6. FYI: POHL WAS FRIENDLY AND AFFABLE, BUT FIRMLY CRITICAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR NOT SUPPORTING U. S. EXPORTERS IN REMOVING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS. EMBOFF STATED THAT USG IS REQUESTING GOP TO ABOLISH CONSULAR INVOICE IN MTN NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT EMBASSY ITSELF WAS TRYING TO GET THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO HAVE ITS CONSULS HANDLE THE CONSULAR INVOICES EXPEDITIOUSLY (SEE MANILA 3237, 3240, 6824, 6889, 7229 AND 7946). AFTER CALL ON MFA OFFICIALS, POHL DID AGREE THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN HELPFUL. END FYI.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF THE STATE OF OUR MTN REQUEST FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE CONSULAR INVOICE. IN MEANTIME, WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH PHILEMBASSY WHICH, IN TURN, COULD ADD ITS VOICE TO MFA IN GETTING THE PHILCONSULS TO ACT MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: BEXP, RP, US
To: STATE
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vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7280a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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